

Appl. No. 10/726,043
Amdt. Dated February 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 22, 2006

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REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 6 to clarify the invention previously set forth in such claim. No new issue is raised therein. As such, Applicant hereby respectfully requests the entry of the amendment set forth above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 2, 6-7, 10, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mashino et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,886,759) in view of Fukuda et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,898,166) and Suga (U.S. Patent No. 6,827,458).

Responsive to the rejection of claims 2, and 6-7, Applicant has amended independent claim 6 and hereby submits that amended claim 6, as well as claims 2 and 7 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 6, as amended, recites:

A locating device configured for **attachment to a surface** of a light guide plate **that is opposite another surface** thereof, **the another surface having dots** thereon, the locating device further being configured for measuring distances between the dots, the locating device comprising a sheet having a plurality of reference points marked thereon, **the plurality of reference points being configured for locating of the dots** during measuring, wherein a **distribution density of the reference points is lower than a distribution density of the dots.** (Emphasis added.)

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Applicant submits that such an invention, as set forth in amended claim 6 is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Mashino et al, Fukuda et al, Suga or any of the other cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

In discussing Mashino et al, the Examiner contends that "Mashino et al discloses . . . a location device . . . position[ed] opposite to the surface of said light guide plate . . .". However, Applicant submits that, in Mashino et al, the so-called **location device** (i.e., the reflective sheet 38) is **not positioned opposite to the surface defining dots**. In Mashino et al, the so-called location device is "located under the light guide 37" (Col. 4, line 34). In addition, as known in the art, the reflective sheet 38 is used "for reflecting the light from the light guide toward the liquid crystal display" (Col. 1, lines 45-46). Therefore, the reflective sheet 38 **must be located under the surface defining dots 67 (FIG. 1A) so as to reflect the light** from the light guide. As such, Mashino et al teaches away from the use of a locating device configured for attachment to a surface of the light guide plate that is opposite to another surface thereof having dots (MPEP §§2141.02, 2143.01) and, accordingly, does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 6.

Further, the dots 1 in Mashino et al serve to allow "light, which may tend to cause light leakage, to be absorbed . . ., thereby **preventing light leakage . . .**" (Col. 5, lines 8-13), and the **dots 1 are printed "on the surface of the reflective sheet 38 adjacent the light-receiving edge face 65 of the light guide 37"** (Col. 4, lines 40-43) (Emphasis added.). That is, there are no dots 1 under most of the light guide 37 with which to locate the dots of the light guide 37. Therefore, such dots 1 in Mashino et al are not

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configured for locating dots in the manner of amended claim 6, and **cannot qualify as the reference points** in amended claim 6.

The Examiner attempts to combine Fukuda et al with the disclosure of Mashino et al. However, neither of the references gives any teaching for one having ordinary skill in the art to combine Mashino et al and Fukuda et al to achieve the locating device of the present claim 6. Specifically, Mashino et al has nothing to do with measurements and is instead directed to improve the display quality by preventing light leakage (Col. 2, lines 23-25), and Fukuda et al is directed to "provide an information reproduction system capable of automatically setting parameters without requiring any special attention or participation on the part of the operator with respect to reading special dot codes" (Col. 2, lines 6-10). Therefore, Fukuda et al does not address the problem with which Mashino et al is concerned, nor is it related to light guide plates and/or measurements associated therewith. (MPEP §2145.IX)'

In discussing Suga, the Examiner contends that "Suga teaches that . . . a distribution density of the reference points is lower than a distribution density of the pattern-dots". However, Suga **only discloses** that "the density of the arrangement" of the pattern 48 "gradually decreases further away from the edged on the side where the light source is provided" (Col. 24, lines 52-58). Applicant submits that Suga simply does not particularly disclose or suggest that the "distribution density of the reference points is lower than a distribution density of the pattern-dots", as per amended claim 6. Further, the pattern 48 in Suga is used for "correcting the bright lines and dark portions in the vicinity of the light source and expanding the luminescent region which is effective for practical purposes (Col. 24, lines

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2-4). Therefore, Suga is unable to overcome the fact that, even if it were to disclose or suggest the "distribution density of the reference points is lower than a distribution density of the pattern-dots", it still would not have been obvious to modify Mashino et al in such a manner, for the reasons provided above. Accordingly, Suga does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 6, nor is it able to overcome the shortfalls associated with Mashino et al.

As such, the combined locating device of Mashino et al, Fukuda et al, and Suga would not disclose or suggest each and every element in amended claim 6, i.e., the combined limitations of "a locating device configured for being attached to a surface of a light guide plate that is opposite to dots", "the plurality of reference points being configured for locating of the dots during measuring", and "a distribution density of the reference points is lower than a distribution density of the dots" are not included in the combined locating device.

Accordingly, independent amended claim 6 is submitted to be unobvious and patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) over the references cited by the Examiner, and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of amended claim 6 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 7 directly depend from independent claim 6 and, therefore, should also be allowable.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 10, and 14-15, Applicant submits that independent claim 14 recites limitations similar to those recited in amended claim 6. Applicant refers to and relies on the above assertions

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regarding the patentability of amended claim 6 and contends that Mashino et al, Fukuda et al, and Suga, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest that "the plurality of reference points being configured for locating of the dots", "a distribution density of the reference points being lower than a distribution density of the dots", and "attaching the locating device to a surface of the light guide plate that is opposite to the dots", as per claim 14. Therefore, independent claim 14 is unobvious and patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of independent claim 14 are respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 15 directly depend from claim 14, which is in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above, and, therefore, should also be allowable.

Claims 3-5 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mashino et al, Fukuda et al, and Suga ('458) as applied to claims 6 and 10, and 14 above, and further in view of Suga et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,425,673).

Responsive to rejection of claims 3-5, Applicant submits that claims 3-5 directly depends from now-allowable amended claim 6 and, therefore, should also be allowable.

Claims 11-13 indirectly depend from claim 14, which is in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above, and, therefore, should also be allowable.

Claims 8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

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unpatentable over Mashino et al, Fukuda et al, and Suga as applied to claims 6 and 14 above, and further in view of Ide et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,865,325).

Responsive to rejection of claim 8, Applicant submits that claim 8 directly depends from now-allowable amended claim 6 and, therefore, should also be allowable.

Claim 16 directly depend from claim 14, which is in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above, and, therefore, should also be allowable.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mashino et al, Fukuda et al, and Suga as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Samworth et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,310,698).

Claim 17 directly depends from claim 14, which is in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above, and, therefore, should also be allowable.

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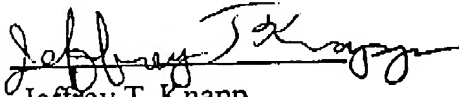
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to this effect is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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